

OBITUARIES

S. W. P. POOLES

Born 6th February 1907, Sydney William Plowright Pooles was a long-standing member of the Society, joining in 1933 and becoming a Special Life Member in 1984. He was known to his friends as 'Tim'.

He was educated at King's School, Peterborough. He married Ina in 1940 and they moved to Box Hill, Dorking. They later returned to Peterborough where Tim practised as a solicitor at Buckle & Co., with whom he became a partner. After Tim retired, they moved down to Eastbourne in Sussex in 1971.

He was a keen and active field lepidopterist with, perhaps not surprisingly given Peterborough's location in the fenland, a particular interest in the wainscots. He had a substantial and immaculately set collection which included specimens of nearly all of the resident species of Macrolepidoptera found in Great Britain. The bulk of this collection was sold to Watkins & Doncaster a few years prior to Tim going into a nursing home in Eastbourne in 1991. However, he retained a small but representative collection in a few drawers of one cabinet, typically a couple of examples of each species. This is now, appropriately, in the Peterborough Museum.

During his time in East Sussex, he made a significant contribution to the knowledge of the butterflies and moths of the vice-county, in particular the Eastbourne area. Indeed, he was the first to record the sloe pug *Chloroclystis chloerata* (Mabille) in East Sussex, finding larvae in 1974. Tim was a kindly man, always willing to impart knowledge and encourage others. One of my earliest memories of him was of a field trip in 1979; Tim knew of a small pond which had been encroached by reeds at Hampden Park in Eastbourne which he thought looked suitable for twin-spotted wainscot *Archanara geminipuncta* (Haworth). We found larvae and pupae with ease. I was always grateful of his company and expertise on many mothing trips in the Eastbourne area as well as on some ventures out of Sussex, such as to Orlestone Forest and Dungeness in Kent.

A friend and mentor, Tim Pooles died on the 8th July 1996. He is survived by his widow, Mrs Ina Pooles, his son and daughter and four grandchildren. He is sadly missed.

MARK PARSONS

RALPH SYDNEY TUBBS, 1912-1996

It is one of the greatest and most important aspects of this the British Entomological and Natural History Society, that people from widely different backgrounds, social standings and generations are brought together as colleagues and friends. Otherwise I would never have had the privilege of knowing Ralph Tubbs OBE.

I can't quite remember at what meeting it was, but it must have been early on in my BENHS attendances at the rooms of the Alpine Club, perhaps 1980, that Ralph first bought me a pint of Directors' Bitter in Mayfair's Red Lion pub after an evening of insect slides and a pleasant discourse about migrations, unusual food-plants and strange new discoveries in suburban gardens. Such was his generosity that I am embarrassed to consider how many drinks I owe him.

Although a mild-mannered gentleman, subtle and kind, Ralph was one of the movers and shapers of 20th century Britain. As an architect he had enormous impact on the world and is best remembered as the designer and creator of the Dome of Discovery, the largest and most important structure built on London's South Bank as part of the Festival of Britain in 1951. At the time it was the largest dome in the world, with a diameter of 365 feet. Ralph was one of three architects who planned and designed the entire exhibition, the others being Hugh Casson and Misha Black. Ralph was awarded an OBE for his work on the Festival, but sadly, at the end of the celebrations, the dome was heartlessly torn down for scrap on the orders of the Minister of Works of the incoming Conservative government.

Others of Ralph's designs have fared better. Council meetings of this society are held each month in one of his buildings—the headquarters of the Scout movement at Baden-Powell House. A private house in Willow Road, Hampstead has just been acquired by the National Trust, and the YMCA Indian Students' Union and Hostel has recently been listed as of architectural importance.

Ralph wrote two influential books on architecture. *Living in cities* presented a vision of urban life after the destruction of the last World War, and countered the idea that modern planning meant skyscrapers, concrete and flat roofs. *The Englishman builds* was a popular history of architecture.

Ralph was unable to join the forces during the last war, because of lameness in one foot, which he had suffered from childhood. But he joined the "night watch" of St Paul's Cathedral, who patrolled the roofs throughout the Blitz extinguishing the many fragments of incendiary bombs which rained down nightly.

His interest in natural history was wide, but his special interest was in breeding butterflies to uncover the genetic mechanisms behind their aberrations. This pursuit was very much a private interest, he did not publish articles based on his findings, but his regular displays at the annual exhibitions covered many species. He was president of this society in 1977 and his end-of-year address (*Proc. Trans. Br. Ent. Nat. Hist. Soc.* **11** (3/4): 77–88) was an account of breeding numerous butterfly species to examine the genetics of several aberrations. These included *Hipparchia semele* (L.) ab. *holanops* Brouwer, *Pyronia tithonus* (L.) ab. *excessa* Tutt, several varieties of *Lysandra coridon* (Poda), *Aphantopus hyperanthus* (L.) ab. *arete* Müller, *obsoleta* Tutt and *caeca* Fuchs and *Melanargia galathea* (L.) ab. *craskei* Tubbs.

Ralph was also deeply involved with the Royal Entomological Society; he served on Council from 1981 to 1984 and was the treasurer from then until 1989. It was through his suggestion that I also joined the RES council in 1987 and 1988. And after the lecture meetings of that Society we would often chat over a dry sherry or two in the library.

His funeral service at the Church of St John the Baptist in Wimbledon was very well attended by family, friends and colleagues from the many walks of life he touched. I was pleased to be able to be there as a friend and representing all three national entomological societies to which Ralph belonged.

RICHARD A. JONES